



**Ahmedabad
University**

DGT 212: Digital Humanities

Project Report

Group: 8

Propaganda and Nationalism in World War Era Printed Media

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INTRODUCTION

Our project, "Propaganda and Nationalism in World War Era Printed Media," encompasses two distinct components: a data essay and a concept guide. For the data essay, we collected a variety of primary sources, including newspaper articles, books, and other printed media from the World War era. Leveraging text analysis tools available on platforms like Voyant, we conducted in-depth textual analysis to explore themes of propaganda and nationalism embedded within these materials. Through quantitative and qualitative analysis, we aimed to uncover patterns, trends, and insights regarding the role of printed media in shaping public sentiment and nationalist ideologies during times of conflict.

In parallel, our concept guide manifested as an interactive exhibit comprising a curated selection of printed media artefacts such as books, posters, newspaper articles, stamps, and magazine covers from the World War era. Additionally, we developed a comprehensive timeline highlighting significant newspaper articles published during both World War I and World War II. Complementing these exhibits, we created a twine game that immerses users in the propaganda narratives of World War II, presenting contrasting perspectives from countries aligned with both the Axis and Allied powers. Through these multifaceted approaches, our project aimed to shed light on the multidimensional nature of propaganda dissemination and its profound impact on public perception and nationalist ideologies during the tumultuous World War era.

Scalar Notebook Link: <https://scalar.usc.edu/works/dgt212-group8/index>

Twine Game Link: <https://aryan-prajapati.itch.io/game-group-8>

Code Repository Link: <https://github.com/Nevil844/dgt212-group8>

Motivation

- The significant role newspapers played in shaping public opinion during times of conflict.
- To shed light on the power of media propaganda and its impact on societal attitudes and actions.
- A desire to contribute to current discussions about nationalism, propaganda, and media manipulation.
- India ranks 161 out of 180 countries on the World Press Freedom Index.

CONCEPT NOTES

PROJECT 1: DATA ESSAY

Context:

Newspapers had a big role in shaping public opinion. There were no means of media other than newspapers that told the public what was happening around the country. German newspapers had the power to strengthen the connection between a soldier fighting at the war front and the people back home. There were many newspapers during that era that spread Nazi ideologies by making exaggerated claims to highlight the supposed national disgrace caused by the Versailles Treaty, denounce what they thought to be the destructive effects of Jewish and Bolshevik influence and attack the shortcomings of parliamentary systems.

Research Questions:

1. How did newspapers contribute to the rise of radical nationalism during the World War era, with particular attention to their effects in countries like Germany?
2. What rhetorical devices and textual components were frequently used in wartime newspapers to stir up nationalist conviction?
3. How did newspaper coverage of the war alter in substance and tone, and what consequences did it create on the public's perception and acceptance of the war effort?
4. Did different countries' newspapers depict the enemy differently during the World War era, and if so, how did this affect nationalist sentiments?
5. How did the public's perception of the war and the spread of nationalist ideologies during World War depend on the cooperation or defiance of newspapers towards government orders?

Aims:

This digital humanities project aims to create a visual data essay that offers a textual analysis of newspapers from the World War era and visualises it. Our project investigates the role of propaganda in promoting extreme nationalism, focusing on countries such as Germany. The

platform will enable users to explore historical newspaper articles, analyse propaganda techniques, and gain insights into the socio-political dynamics of that period.

Objectives:

- We will collect an archive of newspapers used during the World War era, focusing on publications from Germany and other nations that were part of the war.
- For better understanding, we will use text analysis techniques to identify and analyse linguistic features, rhetorical strategies, and thematic patterns within newspaper articles.
- We will compare the writing pattern used throughout time, contrasting early and later war propaganda.
- All the research findings that are collected will be shown through an online platform.

Methodology:

- **Data Collection:** Various types of newspapers from the World War era were gathered through digital libraries and online archives such as “The Library of Congress.”
- **Text Analysis:** We will use quantitative and qualitative methods to analyse the text in the newspaper.
- **Comparative Analysis:** Newspapers from many countries should be included to understand political ideologies. We will understand the target audience and their influence through regional and national newspapers.
- **Timeline:** The research project will collect and analyse data over a period of the war.

Potential Significance:

In particular, this project will focus on Germany and other World War-era nations to offer more insight into the role newspapers played in the rise of radical nationalism. The results will provide insight into the ability of the media to shape social attitudes and actions during times of war by demonstrating the textual methods used and their impact on the formation of public perception. Additionally, by shedding light on the moral ramifications of media propaganda during crises, the project will contribute to current discussions about nationalism, propaganda, and media manipulation.

PROJECT 2: CONCEPT GUIDE

Context:

Newspapers had a big role in shaping public opinion during the World War era in the absence of other multimedia tools. Newspapers were the main tool that told the public what was happening around the country. German newspapers had the power to strengthen the connection between a soldier fighting at the war front and the people back home. There were many newspapers during that era that spread Nazi ideologies by making exaggerated claims to highlight the supposed national disgrace caused by the Versailles Treaty, denounce what they thought to be the bad effects of Jewish and Bolshevik influence and attack the shortcomings of parliamentary systems.

Research Questions:

1. How were propaganda techniques used in World War era newspapers that shaped public opinion?
2. How did visual propaganda, such as posters and cartoons, shape nationalist sentiments during the war?
3. How did written propaganda in newspapers contribute to constructing national identity and support for the war effort?

Aims:

This project aims to understand propaganda and nationalism during the World War era in newspapers. By using this interactive application, users will be able to understand the techniques that were used to manipulate public opinion during that era.

Objectives:

- The main objective is to provide an interactive story format that enables readers to investigate many facets of nationalism and propaganda in newspapers from the World War II era.
- We will include multimedia content such as images, videos, and textual excerpts, which will help us to understand the propaganda techniques used in newspapers during the war.

- The timelines will be used to show visual propaganda, written propaganda, and how propaganda affects a person's view or impacts national identity.

Methodology:

- The main methodology will be to collect various types of posters, newspaper articles, and posters from multiple sources.
- For better understanding, the basic storyline will be created over the years of the world war era.
- One section will include interactive elements, such as quizzes, polls, and timelines, to encourage user engagement and better understanding.

Potential Significance:

This interactive tool presents a unique method for researching nationalism and propaganda in newspapers from the World War I era. Using multimedia components and narrative storytelling will offer users an exciting and educational experience. In addition to contributing to more extensive conversations about media manipulation and the formation of national identity in times of conflict, it also gives a deeper understanding of propaganda tactics and their influence on public opinion.

List of References

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3.	Production versus Destruction: Art, World War I and art history	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1467-8365.00161
4.	Nazi Propaganda (RLE Nazi Germany & Holocaust)	https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/edit/10.4324/9781315753362/nazi-propaganda-rle-nazi-germany-holocaust-david-welch?refId=5374e891-70eb-4c82-a469-39e1ef037d95&context=ubx
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